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Stanley Urban District Council



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1956

S. LUDKIN, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.

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Health Department,
Council Offices,
Tantobie,
Newcastle upon Tyne.

**TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF
THE STANLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the health, vital statistics and sanitary circumstances of your area for the year 1956—the ninth in the series for which I have been responsible.

There have been no really significant changes in the vital statistics but there was a reduction in the number of confirmed cases of infectious disease with no cases of either Poliomyelitis or Diphtheria notified. An explosive outbreak of Food Poisoning occurred affecting large numbers of those attending one particular factory canteen but the illness was mild in nature and short in duration and, as a result of measures adopted, no secondary cases occurred. The outstanding item to report, however, and one which I know will give great pleasure to the members of the Council, is that only three deaths from Tuberculosis occurred during the year—all males in the older age group. There has been a steady decline over the years in Tuberculosis mortality, this being the lowest number recorded in the district, a most satisfactory trend, particularly when one recollects that only ten years ago 34 of the citizens of Stanley died in one year from this preventable disease. The protection of eligible school leavers against Tuberculosis by their annual vaccination with B.C.G. has continued. To the list of diseases against which inoculations can be given has been added Poliomyelitis and a scheme for the vaccination of children was initiated during the year.

The ante-natal, midwifery and maternity services were reviewed during meetings of representatives of hospital, local health authority, and general practitioner services and observations were forwarded to the Ministry. Regular surveys and inspections of sub-standard properties were made in order to keep abreast of the Council's policy of increasing considerably the allocation of new Council houses for replacement purposes, while with the introduction of new powers and enforceable standards of hygiene under the Food and Drugs Act and Regulations, 1955, every effort was made by the staff of the Department to ensure that the provisions were implemented as soon as possible. We were, however, limited considerably by the shortage of inspectors in the Department.

The liaison both with the general medical practitioners and the hospital authorities has continued and for the sake of completeness I have included some details of these services.

Finally, I wish to thank the members of the Council for their encouragement and their support and the staff of the Department for their continued assistance and enthusiasm.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

STANLEY LUDKIN,

Medical Officer of Health.

I. ENVIRONMENTAL CIRCUMSTANCES AND GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (Acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,658
Population (Estimated)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47,860
(i) Estimated number of children :—										
Under 5 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,673
5-14 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,179
(ii) Approximate number of Aged People (over 65 years)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,800
Marriages in the Area during 1956	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	385
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14,628
(i) Number of Aged Miners' Homes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	180
(ii) Number of Council Aged Persons' Homes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	376
(iii) Number of Council Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,391
(iv) Number of Houses and Shops combined	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	207
(v) Number of Lock-up Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	262
(vi) Number of Occupied Houses under Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
(vii) Estimated number of Sub-standard Houses to be dealt with under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	306
Rateable Value (1956-57)										
(i) Estimated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£324,510
(ii) Net Product of Penny Rate.(1956-57) (Estimated)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£1,150

APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF EMPLOYED PERSONS

	Males	Females	Totals
(i) Coal Mining	9,117	174	9,291
(ii) Building and Civil Engineering	314	2	316
(iii) Retail Distribution of Food	519	492	1,011
(iv) Local and National Government...	406	165	571
(v) Catering Hotels, Canteens, etc.	20	215	235
(vi) Road Transport	543	67	610
(vii) Engineering Trades	727	387	1,114
(viii) Clothing Factories	57	490	547
(ix) Miscellaneous	1,797	2,508	2,305
Totals	13,500	4,500	18,000

UNEMPLOYED AND DISABLED

	Males	Females	Totals	%
(i) Employable Persons out of work at the end of 1955	—	—	325	2
(ii) Persons registered as Disabled	779	44	823	
(iii) Registered Disabled who were on the Tuberculosis Register at 31.12.56	41	14	55	6.6
(iv) Disabled persons retrained	—	—	3	
(v) No. of persons who have had special rehabilitation during 1956	—	—	8	
(vi) No. of T.B. persons who have had special rehabilitation during 1956	—	—	2	
(vii) Tuberculosis persons retrained during 1956...	—	—	—	
(viii) No. of Registered Blind Persons	—	—	128	
(ix) No. of Partially Sighted Persons	—	—	24	
(x) No. of Persons drawing Blind Persons' Pension	7	11	18	
(xi) No. of Blind Persons in receipt of National Assistance	34	32	66	

COMPARATIVE RATES

	England and Wales	Durham County	Smaller Towns	Stanley
No. of live births per 1,000 population	15.7	17.8	15.6	16.1
No. of still births per 1,000 population	0.36	0.45	0.36	0.39
No. of maternal deaths per 1,000 live and still births... ..	0.56	1.31	—	2.52
No. of infant deaths per 1,000 live births	23.8	27.0	24.1	27.1
No. of deaths per 1,000 population	11.7	11.3	11.6	12.1
No. of Tuberculosis deaths per 1,000 population	0.12	0.13	0.11	0.06
No. of Pulmonary Tuberculosis deaths per 1,000 population	0.10	0.11	—	0.06
No. of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis deaths per 1,000 population	0.02	0.01	—	—

The standardised birth and death rates for the area, i.e., rates calculated in such a way that allowances are made for the age and sex composition of the population were 16.1 and 14.6 respectively.

DETAILED VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

(a) Live Births	Males	Females	Totals
Legitimate	376	380	756
Illegitimate	5	12	17
Totals	381	392	773
(b) Still Births :			
Legitimate	7	10	17
Illegitimate	—	2	2
Totals	7	12	19

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
No. of Still Births per 1,000 population	0.35	0.41	0.42	0.60	0.37	0.33	0.40	0.39
No. of Live and Still Births per 1,000 population ...	18.35	16.27	16.79	17.63	16.83	15.49	14.66	16.54
No. of Still Births per 1,000 Live and Still Births ...	19.00	25.35	24.75	34.20	22.25	21.50	27.06	23.99

During the year there were 19 still-births compared with 19 last year.

DEATHS

	Males	Females	Total
Deaths during year	336	241	577
Deaths from Puerperal Causes	—	—	—

(a) Infant Deaths

The number of infant deaths for the year was 21 as compared with 13 in the previous year. Seven of these occurred on the first day, 13 within the first week, and a total of 15 within the first month of life.

The difference between stillbirths and deaths occurring in the first few weeks of life is often very slight and as the causes are frequently the same, the 19 recorded in the first category and the 13 occurring within the first week of life should therefore be grouped together when considering the problem of prevention. For a long time this group has been the hardcore of wasted infant life, and one cannot stress too strongly the importance of adequate advice, medical attention and care of expectant mothers together with education of the nursing mother in the principles of child care, nutrition and prevention of infections.

Analysis of Infant Deaths

CAUSE	Age at Death		
	1 Week and Under	1-4 Weeks	1-12 Months
Prematurity	8	—	—
Congenital Malformation ...	2	—	1
Birth Injury	1	—	—
Asphyxia	2	—	—
Septicaemia	—	1	—
Gastro-enteritis	—	—	1
Broncho-pneumonia	—	1	4
Totals	13	2	6

Following the receipt of a memorandum from the Ministry of Health, joint meetings between representatives of the Local Authorities and Hospital Staff and General Practitioners were called to discuss maternal deaths due to toxemia of pregnancy when an opportunity was also taken to discuss the whole aspect of peri-natal deaths ; the existing ; and the ideal ante-natal services which should be provided in the Area. The conclusions and recommendations were sent to the Ministry.

For detailed vital statistics and trends see Appendix A.

(b) Deaths (General)						Males	Females	Total
ALL CAUSES						336	241	577
1. Cardio vascular :—								
(a)	Vascular lesions of nervous system ...					75	46	121
(b)	Coronary disease					64	24	88
(c)	Hypertension with heart disease					4	5	9
(d)	Other heart diseases					43	34	77
(e)	Other circulatory diseases					9	10	19
Totals						195	119	314
2. Chest Diseases :—								
(a)	Pneumonia					12	7	19
(b)	Bronchitis					15	4	19
(c)	Other diseases of respiratory system ...					11	2	13
Totals						38	13	51
3. Cancer :—								
(a)	Malignant Neoplasm, stomach					12	13	25
(b)	Malignant Neoplasm, lung bronchus ...					8	—	8
(c)	Malignant Neoplasm, breast					1	9	10
(d)	Malignant Neoplasm, uterus					—	7	7
(e)	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms					19	33	52
Totals						40	62	102

4.	Tuberculosis—all forms...	...	...	3	—	3
5.	Other infective and parasitic diseases...	...	...	1	1	2
6.	Congenital Malformations	...	...	1	4	5
7.	Diabetes ...	...	...	1	—	1
8.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	1	2	3
9.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	4	—	4
10.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	5	—	5
11.	Syphilitic Disease	...	...	1	1	2
12.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	26	26	52
13.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	2	2	4
14.	All other accidents	...	...	8	3	11
15.	Suicide ...	...	...	4	3	7
16.	Influenza	...	...	1	1	2
17.	Leukaemia	...	...	3	1	4
18.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...	...	1	1	2
19.	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	...	...	—	2	2
20.	Homicide and Operations of War	...	...	1	—	1

The main causes of death were disease of the Heart and Circulatory System, Cancer, Pneumonia and Bronchitis in that order.

Until the last century the toll exacted by acute and chronic infections and particularly Tuberculosis, was so great that relatively few people survived beyond middle life but so effective have been the health and social advances of the past 100 years that we can now expect many more years of life. We are, however, now being confronted with a higher incidence of different types of disease, particularly those resulting from the wear and tear of life. Again this year the steady increase in the number of deaths from Coronary Thrombosis, particularly in males has been maintained while additional deaths from Cancer have also been recorded.

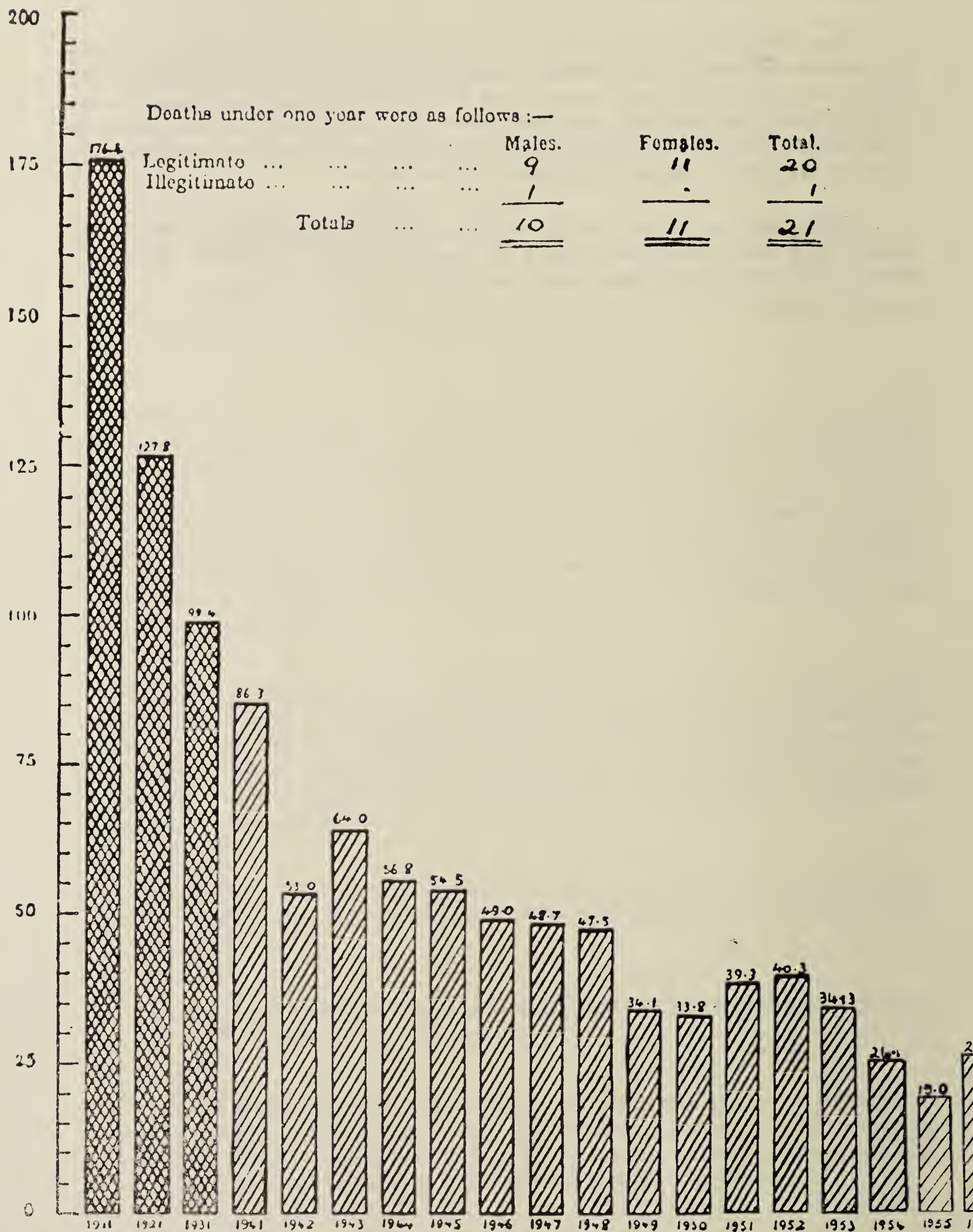
Last year I referred to the accumulating evidence of the association between smoking and Cancer of the Lung. Research work on this subject has continued and now at the time of writing this report, the Medical Research Council has published a further report and has just advised the Government that a causal connection exists between tobacco smoking and Lung Cancer. Their main conclusions are as follows :—

- (1) Only a relatively small proportion of the great increase in deaths from Lung Cancer in the last 25 years can be attributed to specific industrial hazards.
- (2) A proportion of causes, the exact extent of which cannot yet be defined, may be due to atmospheric pollution.
- (3) The major part of the increase in Carcinoma of the Lung in this and other countries is associated with tobacco smoking particularly in the form of cigarettes and that the most reasonable interpretation is that the relationship is one of direct cause and effect.
- (4) Several carcinogenic substances in tobacco smoke have been identified.

A number of research workers have also collected evidence that other diseases are associated with, and possibly in part caused by, tobacco smoking. These diseases include Respiratory Tuberculosis in adults, Coronary Thrombosis, Cancer of the Mouth, Oropharynx and Larynx, and Chronic Bronchitis.

These hazards to life and health are undeniable and it is to be left to Local Authorities to arrange the necessary publicity. Personal advice at schools and by the General Practitioner would seem to be essential and until some way of making this social habit safe has been discovered, in addition to other measures to be adopted, it has been suggested that prohibition of smoking in cinemas and other public places might also make a contribution.

During the year there were 15 accidents causing death, 2 occurred in the home (both old ladies aged 83 and 84 years) while 7 occurred at work, 4 were road accidents (2 persons being over 65 years) and 2 drowning.



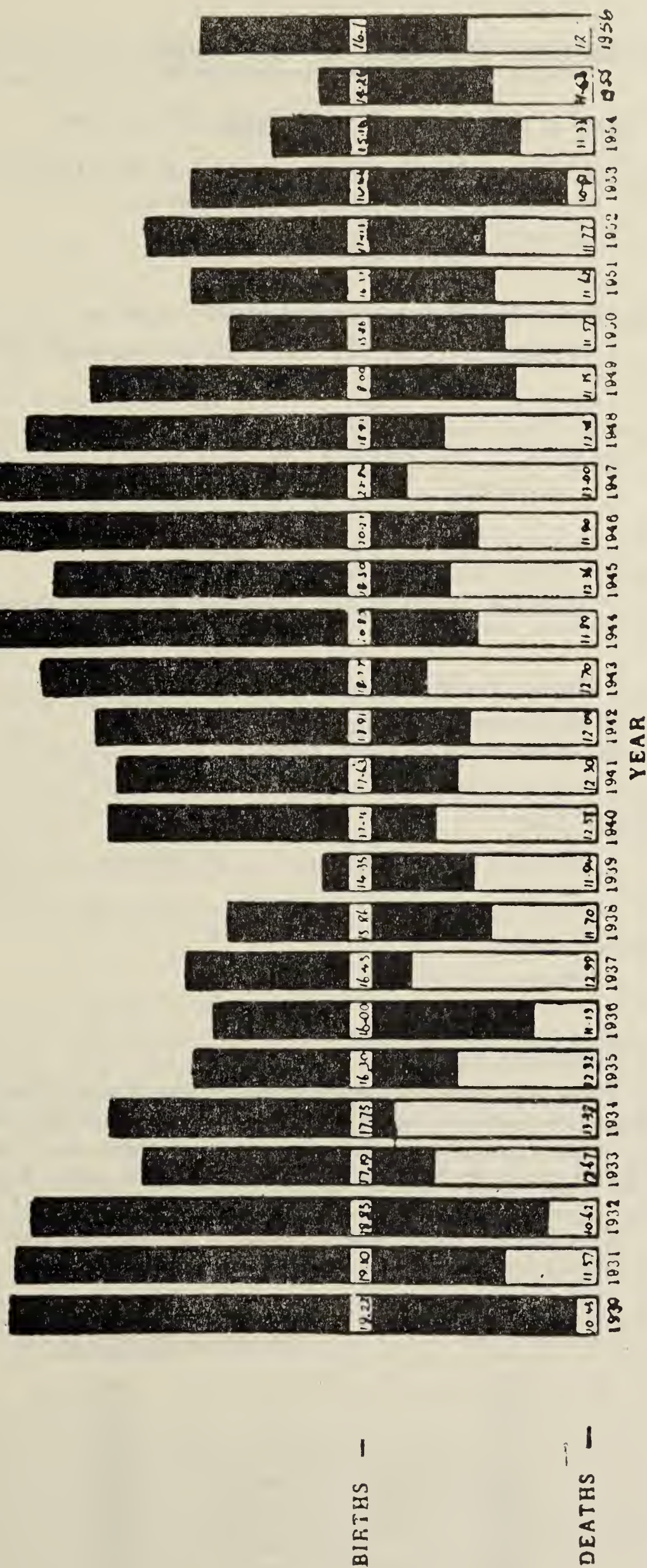
Deaths under one year were as follows :—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	9	11	20
Illegitimate	1	-	1
Totals	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>21</u>

INFANT DEATHS PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS

BIRTHS AND DEATH RATES PER 1,000 POPULATION

For the 27 year period ending
31st December, 1956.



II. HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

1. **Staff of Public Health Department**

Medical Officer of Health and County Area Medical Officer for Stanley and Consett Urban and Lanchester Rural Districts :

S. LUDKIN, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector and Shops Inspector :

J. W. RICHARDS, M.P.H.I.A., Certified Meat and Foods Inspector.

Assistant Chief Public Health Inspector :

E. M. PETCH, M.P.H.I.A., Certified Meat and Foods Inspector (Resigned 28/10/56).

District Public Health Inspector :

J. E. HARRIS, M.P.H.I.A., Certified Meat and Foods Inspector.

Pupil Public Health Inspectors :

R. G. PINKERTON (Appointed 27/2/56).

E. JOHNSON (Appointed 24/9/56).

Clerical Staff :

T. WATSON ; G. W. MOORE ; J. BAINBRIDGE ; L. BURROWS.

Rodent Operator :

R. NEILL.

2. **Laboratory Facilities**

These continued to be provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service during the first part of the year at Government Buildings, Ponteland Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, and after July at their new building in the General Hospital grounds, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne.

The service of the Public Health Laboratory has continued to be used extensively by General Practitioners.

Year					Specimens Submitted	Positive
1948	...	...	...	...	568	77
1949	...	...	...	...	887	159
1950	...	...	...	...	2,475	493
1951	...	...	...	...	1,335	292
1952	...	...	...	...	1,039	139
1953	...	...	...	...	3,649	653
1954	...	...	...	...	1,271	199
1955	...	...	...	...	2,354	548
1956	...	...	...	...	1,340	231

The following table gives particulars of specimens sent in for examination by the Health Department and the Medical Practitioners in the Area.

Bacteriological Examinations

	Number of Specimens submitted	Positive
Blood : Culture	1	1
Faeces :		
(a) Enteric Fever	448	183
(b) Other Organisms		
Swabs : (Throat, Nasal and Ear)		
(a) Diphtheria	4	—
(b) Haemolytic Streptococci		
(c) Other Organisms		
Sputum for Tuberculosis :		
(a) Chest Clinics	872	41
(b) Other Medical Services	11	5
Miscellaneous	4	1
Totals	1,340	231

Six Ice Cream Samples were submitted for bacteriological examination all of which were found to be satisfactory.

3. Local Health Authority Services

While a scheme adopted by the County Council in 1948 and approved by the Minister divided the Administrative County into Areas—Lanchester Rural, Consett and Stanley Urban Districts comprising No. 3 Area—for each of which an Area Health Sub-Committee was appointed, the duties and responsibilities of the Committee are few.

(a) Health Centres

There is no immediate prospect of a Health Centre being built in the District.

(b) Clinics

In order to reduce the number of maternal and peri-natal deaths, there is, at the moment, considerable discussion about the ideal services which should be provided to expectant and nursing mothers. That adequate ante- and post-natal services are necessary is agreed by all, but there is some feeling that there might be better co-ordination or re-distribution of services provided by hospitals, general practitioners, and local health authority clinics.

Views on this subject were thoroughly aired at a meeting convened at Shotley Bridge Hospital, final conclusions and recommendations being sent up to the Ministry of Health.

(i) Birth Control

Clinics for the above are held in the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, East Stanley, on alternate Thursday mornings.

(ii) Ante-Natal

Clinics are held as follows :

- CHAPEL SCHOOLROOM, CATCHGATE—Friday afternoons.
- U.M. SCHOOLROOM, BURNOPFIELD—Alternate Thursday mornings.
- HEDLEY MEMORIAL HALL, CRAGHEAD—Alternate Wednesday mornings.
- COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTRE, DIPTON—Alternate Thursday afternoons.
- MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE, EAST STANLEY—Wednesday mornings and alternate Wednesday afternoons (South Moor).
- WESLEYAN SCHOOLROOM, TANFIELD LEA—Alternate Tuesday afternoons.

(iii) **Post-Natal**

Clinics for the above are held in the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, East Stanley on alternate Thursday mornings.

(iv) **Child Welfare**

Child Welfare Clinics have a dual medical and educational function, the emphasis at present being on

- (i) periodic medical supervision of all children from the age of one to five years, where special attention is given to the early detection of defects such as deafness, speech problems, spasticity, squint and dental caries ;
- (ii) prophylaxis against infectious diseases, and
- (iii) individual and group education of parents in child care. Included in this health education programme is accident prevention, advice on behaviour difficulties with special consideration given to premature babies, illegitimate, deprived or neglected infants and members of problem families.

The new Infant Welfare Clinic at East Stanley was completed early in the year.

Clinics are held as follows :

CHAPEL SCHOOLROOM, CATCHGATE—Tuesday afternoons.
U.M. SCHOOLROOM, BURNOPFIELD—Alternate Thursday afternoons.
HEDLEY MEMORIAL HALL, CRAGHEAD—Alternate Wednesday afternoons.
COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTRE, DIPTON—Alternate Thursday mornings.
PAROCHIAL HALL, SOUTH MOOR—Alternate Monday afternoons (Children).
MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE, EAST STANLEY—Tuesday mornings.
WESLEYAN SCHOOLROOM, TANFIELD LEA—Alternate Tuesday mornings.

(v) **Artificial Sunlight**

Clinics are held as follows :

CHAPEL SCHOOLROOM, CATCHGATE—Tuesday mornings and alternate Friday mornings.
MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CLINIC, EAST STANLEY—Tuesday afternoons and alternate Thursday afternoons.

(vi) **Immunisation and Vaccination**

Immunisation and vaccination of children has been carried out by :

- (i) Infant and Child Welfare Clinic Medical Officers (against Diphtheria, Poliomyelitis and Smallpox).
- (ii) General Practitioners by personal arrangement with parents.
- (iii) School Medical Officers (against Poliomyelitis and Tuberculosis).

(b) **Nursing in the Home and Midwifery Services**

These services have been under the direct administration of the County Council since 1st April, 1954, when the employees of the County Nursing Association were transferred to the County Council's employ. All nursing requisites are held by the Central Store, Durham, and are sent out to the various patients when requests are received.

The following shows the districts in which the District Nurses, District Nurse-Midwives and Midwives are operating :

Stanley	3 District Nurses, 3 District Midwives.
Annfield Plain	1 District Nurse, 3 District Midwives.
Craghead	1 Nurse Midwife.
Burnopfield	2 Nurse Midwives.
Dipton	1 District Nurse and 1 District Midwife.
Tanfield... ..	1 District Nurse and 1 District Midwife.

The following is a summary of the work carried out in this Area by the above :

	Cases	Visits
Medical	767	14,265
Surgical	945	11,827
Tuberculosis	40	1,396
Midwifery and Maternity	372	5,208
Totals	2,124	32,696

During the year, confinements were attended by midwives which represents 47% of the total births. Last year 54% of expectant mothers had their babies at home.

Midwifery and maternity cases are attended for fourteen days.

(c) **Health Visitor Service**

There are six Health Visitors in the Stanley Urban District, the following domiciliary visits being made during the year :—

Maternity and Child Welfare	12,347
Tuberculosis	1,299
General Health	16
Mental Deficiency	373
Schools	1,144
Aged People	37
Total	15,216

Unfortunately, at present, the services of the Health Visitors are seldom used by the General Practitioners.

(d) **County Ambulance Service**

The Urban District comes within the area served by the Consett Ambulance Control (with its staff of four clerk-telephonists maintaining a 24-hour service) but is served in the main by the County Depot situated in East Street, East Stanley. The establishment of personnel and vehicles at this latter depot is as follows :

Driver-attendants	16
Ambulances	6

The following table gives details of work undertaken by the Stanley Depot during the year 1956.

Journeys Undertaken	Cases carried			Miles Covered
	Stretcher	Sitting	Total	
5,149	3,690	18,133	21,823	180,833

It should be noted, however, that the conveyance of cases resident in the Urban District is not completely restricted to the Stanley Depot but is undertaken by the unit which is most convenient at any given time. All requests for ambulances are made to the Consett Ambulance Control (Telephone No. Consett 411).

During the year a system of radio control was introduced into the Service. For the present only a proportion of the fleet is equipped with mobile sets and of these three are operating on vehicles stationed at the Stanley Depot.

(e) **Prevention of Illness—Care and After-care**

There are no voluntary District Care Committees, the Local Health Authority discharging the functions imposed by Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

Those cases discharged from hospital and requiring further nursing are visited by the home nurse if necessary or supervised and advised by the Health Visitor if this should be requested. Nursing requisites can be hired from the Central Depot at Durham.

(f) **Domestic Help Service**

This service has been used extensively during the year.

Charges are made, the amount depending on the income of the household.

At the beginning of January, 1956, 280 cases in this District were being served by a Home Help. There were 105 new cases during the year and of the total of 385 cases receiving the service, 364 were old age pensioners, 16 were suffering from sickness, 2 from Tuberculosis and there were 3 maternity cases. At the 31st December, 1956, there were 314 cases in the Area.

(g) **Occupation Centre for Mentally Handicapped Children**

A wing of the former I.D. Hospital at Villa Real, Consett, converted in July, 1952, has continued to be used for mentally defective children excluded from school under Section 57 of the Education Act, 1944.

Eight boys up to the age of 15 years and 12 girls up to the age of 21 years from the North-West of Durham (a number being from this area) travel daily to this centre. The Education Department have arranged from the onset provision of school meals and free milk to these pupils. From September, 1956, a special bus commenced to collect pupils each morning and return them to their homes each afternoon.

4. **Hospital Services**

The Local Hospital Services are administered by the North-West Durham Hospital Management Committee on behalf of the Newcastle Regional Hospital Board. The Secretary has kindly provided the following information on the Hospitals and Clinics serving this Area.

Maiden Law Hospital

At 31st December, 1956, the following number of beds were available :—

Ear, Nose and Throat ...	...	...	...	24
Chest Unit (Tuberculosis) ...	...	...	...	84
				<hr/>
Total ...	...	...	...	108
				<hr/>

Lee Hill Hospital

This Hospital, with a complement of 307 beds (62 of which are used as Part III accommodation for the County Council) and a Medical Out-patients' Department, deals with the Chronic Sick and includes a section for Orthopaedic Tuberculosis cases.

Bed allocation is as follows :—

Orthopaedic	...	...	...	...	...	28
Mental	...	...	...	...	...	44
Chronic Sick	...	...	...	...	...	173
Part III Accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	62
Total						<u>307</u>

Shotley Bridge General Hospital

Out-patient facilities for all the Specialties exist at this Hospital. The 533 beds are allocated as follows :—

Surgical	...	...	...	...	...	121
Medical	...	...	...	...	...	98
Gynaecological	...	...	...	...	...	43
Orthopaedic	...	...	...	...	...	45
Paediatrics	...	...	...	...	...	4
Thoracic Surgery	...	...	...	...	...	114
Radiotherapy	...	...	...	...	...	50
Plastic Surgery	...	...	...	...	...	58
Total						<u>533</u>

Richard Murray Hospital

There are 32 Obstetric beds at this Hospital.

Infectious Diseases Hospital

Patients in the Area suffering from infectious diseases were admitted to the Chester-le-Street Infectious Diseases Hospital.

South Moor Hospital

The 38 beds are allocated as follows :—

Thoracic Surgery	...	...	...	...	24
Orthopaedic and General Surgery	...	...	...	...	14

Out-patient facilities for Surgery, Medicine, Ophthalmology, etc. ,also exist at this hospital.

Chest Clinic

As from the 12th October, 1953, the newly opened Chest Clinic in the grounds of the South Moor Hospital replaced the service provided at the unsuitable premises at Barnhill.

The following sessions operate :—

Monday mornings, 9.15 a.m. each week	...	Males
Monday afternoons, 2 p.m. each week...	...	Contacts of known cases of Tuberculosis.
Tuesday mornings, 9.15 a.m. each week	...	Pneumoconiosis cases.
Tuesday afternoons, 2 p.m. each week	...	Artificial Pneumothorax and Pneumoperitoneum refill session.
Thursday mornings, 9.15 a.m. each week	...	Females.
Thursday afternoons, 2 p.m. each week	...	Children—up to 16 years of age.

Venereal Diseases

Treatment and diagnostic facilities are provided by clinics outside the Area as follows :—

Newcastle General Hospital, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Males and Females :—

Monday to Friday : 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon ; 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Saturday : 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sunday (Emergency only) : 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Durham County Hospital :

Females : Monday and Thursday, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Males : Monday, 4.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.

5. Executive Council Service

There are 23 general medical practitioners, six dentists and nine chemists operating in the Urban District.

6. Old People and their Homes

Admissions to Local Health Authority Hostels are arranged directly with the Welfare Department, Durham, or after reference to the District Health Department—an up-to-date waiting list for this accommodation being held locally.

During the year 42 applications for residential accommodation were received from persons residing in this area and the number awaiting accommodation at the 31st December, 1956, was 23.

In all, during the year, 11 were admitted, five to the Lanchester Hostel and six to other hostels outside the district.

The building of the hostel for old people in the Stanley district will be completed early in 1957. This will provide accommodation for 38 old people at an estimated cost of almost £31,000. Most of this accommodation will be in the form of single bedrooms but there will be also two rooms each to accommodate two persons and two rooms each to accommodate four persons. It is hoped that this will avoid transferring old people out of the district away from relatives, friends and the countryside they know so well.

Elderly people retained in their own familiar surroundings with a sense of being still actively part of the community can often fend for themselves if given a little help. It is for this reason that a good home nursing service, together with domestic help through the home help scheme, can play such an important part in keeping the aged and infirm out of hostels and hospitals. Increasing frailty makes old people liable to accident therefore anything that can be done to house this group of the population in property where there are no unnecessary steps, and no low fireplaces nor lofty cupboards, assists in the prevention or delay in the onset of disabilities. It was necessary, however, in the case of an old gentleman of 76 years to have him removed to hospital on the 20th October because of sudden mental and physical deterioration. He was living alone and we had been observing him for some time. Since he completely refused to go to hospital it was necessary for the General Medical Practitioner and myself to obtain a Magistrate's Order under Section 1, Sub-section 1, of the National Assistance Act, 1951, for his immediate and compulsory removal to and detention in the hospital. He died two days after admission to hospital.

A service of great value to the aged is that provided by a chiropodist and some assisted scheme in this Area would be a great boon for frequently the disability suffered by old people is out of all proportion to the actual foot trouble.

7. Health Education

Copies of the journal "Better Health" continue to be supplied to each school in the Area, the members of the Health Committee, the various youth and other organisations, and for the waiting room of each General Practitioner's surgery. This journal, a very readable and interesting booklet, covers a whole field of health with particular reference from time to time to child health and nutrition, family matters, services provided by the local health authority, epidemiology, environmental and food hygiene, smoke abatement and home accidents. It has proved a popular and attractive means of promoting health education in the district. I have supplemented this by lectures to various organisations on food hygiene, Tuberculosis, infectious diseases, and duties and responsibilities of the staff in the Health Department of a Local Authority.

At the two-day Annual Show, an opportunity was again taken of providing a display and film show on health subjects. On this occasion focus was on food hygiene and the prevention of food poisoning. In one large tent, the ideal equipment, counters, refrigerated containers, etc., were displayed, while in another section there were insect display cabinets. In the second tent continuous film shows on the same theme were shown.

8. Refuse Removal and Disposal

House refuse is collected from 3,602 ashpits weekly and 10,980 ashbins twice weekly, together with trade refuse twice weekly from 169 shops, etc., necessitating a total of 25,900 visits each week.

The estimated amount of refuse collected is 50,500 tons per annum.

The refuse is abnormally heavy and peculiar to a colliery district where the coal is supplied free to the miners and contains a high percentage of stone. These stones are still being separated from the coal and deposited either on the highway or the back streets and this has entailed additional costs for collection.

The total annual cost of collection and disposal for the year ending 31st March, 1957, was £35,817. This gives a rate of 14/2d. per ton and an equivalent rate in the pound of 2/7.1d. The average weight of refuse per 1,000 population per day was 57 cwts. and the nett cost per 1,000 population per year is £748.

Two new vehicles were bought during the year at a cost of £2,364—a Gamecock Diesel Refuse Collector and a Diesel Tractor Muledozer for use on the refuse tips.

9. Prevention of Damage by Pests

During the year 292 inspections were carried out at private dwellings, business premises, local authorities' properties and agricultural premises. (See Appendix E).

Twenty-five food shops and food preparation rooms and thirteen schools were dealt with because of rat and mice infestations. Where necessary, owners were asked to carry out works of repair and rat-proofing to their premises. Seventy-two private dwellings received the usual treatment for the eradication of these pests.

The maintenance treatments of sewers and sewage disposal works were completed at two six-monthly intervals as required by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. During the first treatment from 19th April to 1st May, 279 manholes were baited, 71 showing prebait take and 60 complete prebait take. Test baits were laid in 244 manholes, 38 showing bait take. During the second treatment, which owing to very heavy rains was delayed until 8th to 27th October, 238 manholes were baited, 64 showing prebait take and 43 complete prebait take. No test baits were laid after the second treatment.

10. Disinfestation

During the year two Council and four private houses found to be infested with bed bugs were disinfested.

The method of disinfestation carried out is by spraying with insecticides, removing or destroying infested woodwork where necessary and the washing down of articles with soap and water.

In addition, twelve houses and one school were treated for beetles, wood-worm, or earwigs.

11. Pet Animals Act, 1951

During the year three licences for the keeping of pet animals were issued and routine inspections were carried out.

III. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. Water

(a) Durham County Water Board provides a public water supply from a catchment area around Waskerley, some 12 miles from Stanley, reservoirs being situated at Smiddy Shaw, Waskerley Park and Hisehope, while filtration and chlorination of this upland surface water is done at Honey Hill, Waskerley.

During the year there was a steady residual of approximately 0.1 p.p.m. of chlorine in all the daily samples tested in the Health Department offices, while samples submitted for more detailed bacteriological examination proved to be satisfactory.

An application has been made to the Minister of Housing and Local Government for an order permitting the construction of a new large impounding reservoir in the Derwent Valley near Edmundbyers, and a public enquiry has been held to hear objections to this proposal.

This joint project by the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company and the Durham County Water Board is an attempt to overcome the extreme shortage of water which occurs during drought periods.

This reservoir is expected to supply about twenty million gallons per day to authorities, the Board taking a half share of this yield. Once this is completed, there will be a substantial surplus of water for many years to come, although it will not remove the immediate difficulties, for the project will take seven or eight years to complete.

(b) Two samples of water were forwarded to the Bacteriologist for examination. The results, graded in accordance with the Ministry of Health Report "The Bacteriological Examination of Water Supplies, 1949" are as follows :

	Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV
Public water supply	2	—	—	—

During the year the Durham County Water Board laid 1,514 yards of 3-in. main, 177 yards 4-in. main and 24 yards of 6-in. main in the Stanley Urban District.

The new 9" Dunleyford to South Moor pipe laid to increase the water supply to Craghead, South Moor and Edmondsley was completed.

Because of the reduced pressures throughout the area, the length of old 15" main from the Honey Hill Filtration Plant to Moorside was scraped with considerable success and in view of many complaints of shortage of water in the New Kyo district, the 9" main from the Loud feeding Annfield Plain and on to Stanley was also scraped and reports up-to-date indicate that this has overcome all shortage troubles in this latter area.

2. Atmospheric Pollution

This problem, domestic as well as industrial, is of course one which cannot be solved overnight and will entail expense and involve co-operation from all those concerned.

Three deposit gauges have been sited in the Annfield Plain area and the results of the twelve months are shown in Appendix F. Pollution figures, to be of any significance, must be studied over long periods but the indications, based on the data already obtained, should be of considerable value once it is possible to implement the provisions of the Clean Air Act.

3. Sanitary Conveniences

During the year, 183 conversions were carried out, 62 by private contractors and 121 under Part II of the Council's Scheme for the conversion of privies in the area.

With the exception of one privy still to be converted, the Council's scheme for the conversion of 688 privies in the area has now been completed.

There are, however, 307 privies which, owing to their position or being part of sub-standard property, still remain in the Area.

The number of privies converted into water-closets since 1931 are as follows :—

1931	...	...	...	151	
1932	...	...	...	155	
1933	...	...	...	1,664	(including scheme for 1,460)
1934	...	...	...	250	
1935	...	...	...	142	
1936	...	...	...	230	
1937	...	...	...	103	
1938	...	...	...	47	
1939	...	...	...	471	(including part scheme for 1,295)
1940	...	...	...	3	
1941	...	...	...	1	
1942	...	...	...	2	
1943	...	...	...	6	
1944	...	...	...	12	
1945	...	...	...	6	
1946	...	...	...	7	
1947	...	...	...	4	
1948	...	...	...	51	
1949	...	...	...	58	
1950	...	...	...	57	
1951	...	...	...	80	
1952	...	...	...	192	(including part of conversion scheme).
1953	...	...	...	661	(ditto.).
1954	...	...	...	59	
1955	...	...	...	39	
1956	...	...	...	183	(ditto.).
Total				4,634	

The following are the types of conveniences in the Area :—

Water-closets	...	...	14,581
Privies	...	...	307
Dry Ashpits	...	...	3,295
Ashbins	...	...	10,980

4. **Housing**

(a) **General**

The number of applications for Council houses received during January and February, 1956, was 1,729, which were classified as follows :—

Families without Homes	...	...	...	739
Overcrowding (Family Units)	...	...	...	241
Medical	...	...	...	17
Aged Persons	...	...	...	331
Unclassified	...	...	...	401
Total				1,729

The following Council houses were completed during the year :—

2 Bedroom	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	111
3 Bedroom	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	83
Aged Persons' Homes with two Bedrooms	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Total								206

No. of Council Houses let during the year (including 41 Aged Persons' Homes)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	388
Casual Lettings (including 29 Aged Persons' Homes)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	132
Privately owned Houses completed during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18

The total number of persons rehoused in Council houses during the year was 1,206 (including 62 persons rehoused in Aged Persons' Bungalows).

Medical Priority

The Council's practice of allocating 10% of new houses and casual lettings to medical cases was continued and in view of our concern to reduce the incidence of Tuberculosis in the Area, all of this allocation was granted to overcrowded families or families living in insanitary circumstances, in which one or more persons were suffering from Tuberculosis. Due regard was given to the family income and rent payable for the Council house to ensure that no financial hardship nor deterioration in nutritional state would ensue following rehousing.

A total of 88 applicants for Council houses requested medical priority during the year, but only 17 were considered to justify special consideration. Of these, 9 families (31 persons) were rehoused making a total of 172 families rehoused since 1946 on grounds of Tuberculosis.

Overcrowding

The number of applications on the 1956 Housing List is 241 which are confined specifically to the one-family unit and the selection of tenants is based on the points system of two persons to one room and allowing for separation of children according to age and sex.

The following table shows the number of persons and families together with the number of bedrooms.

No. of Persons in House	Total No. of Persons	No. of Families	No. of Bedrooms			
			1	2	3	4
3	267	89	89	—	—	—
4	268	67	67	—	—	—
5	310	62	15	47	—	—
6	90	15	1	14	—	—
7	49	7	—	5	2	—
8	8	1	—	—	1	—
Totals	992	241	172	66	3	—

It will be noted that approximately 71% of the applications are from families living in one-bedroom houses.

20% of all Council houses let during the year were occupied by 60 overcrowded families (300 persons). (Average persons per house—5).

Insanitary Dwellings

During the year the following properties were dealt with under the Housing Acts :—

	No of Houses	No. of Persons Displaced During 1956
1. Individual Unfit Houses Demolished (Section 11) ...	14	4
2. Individual Unfit Houses Demolished (Informal Action)	72	2
3. Individual Unfit Houses Closed (Formal Action) ...	12	24
4. Individual Unfit Houses Closed (Informal Action) ...	16	49

A commencement was made with the demolition or closing of those sub-standard properties included in the Council's five-year programme outlined in last year's report.

Demolition Orders

The following particulars show the position regarding houses under Demolition Orders :—

1. No. of houses occupied at 31.12.56	26
2. No. of houses standing empty at 31.12.56	24
3. No. of Demolition Orders served during 1956	26
4. No. of sub-standard houses to be dealt with under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936	306

Improvement Grants—Housing Act, 1949 and Housing Rents and Repairs Act, 1954

During the year 47 preliminary applications were considered by the Department making a total of 244 applications of which 21 were withdrawn by the Owners before and five after submission to the Council.

A total of 121 applications have been granted by the Council, 91 of which have been completed. Three applications were rejected by the Council during the year.

(b) Notices served under the Public Health and Housing Acts

	No. of INFORMAL Notices served	No. of STATU-TORY Notices served	Defects remedied after Notice
Housing :			
Public Health and Housing Act	123	37	127
Sanitary Conveniences :			
Defective	49	7	49
Drainage	38	5	36
Water Supply	5	—	4
Food Premises	1	—	1
Factories Act, 1937	2	—	1
Tents, Vans and Sheds	2	—	2
Insanitary Ashpits and Receptacles ...	22	2	25
Smoke Nuisances	2	—	1
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	4	—	5
Totals	248	51	251

(c) **Analysis of Inspections, 1956 :**

Housing Defects : Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	176
Revisits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	528
Drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	241
Water-closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	103
Ashpits and Ashbins	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Foul Conditions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Housing Acts : Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	238
Demolition	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	319
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	414
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	52
Water Samples	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Ice Cream Samples	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Rodent Infestation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	983
Deposits of Refuse	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	87
Animals Improperly Kept	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Atmospheric Pollution	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	319
Privy Conversions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	322
Refuse Collection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Council Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	70
Unsound Food	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	81
Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	323
Shops...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	64
Appointments	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	54
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Total									4,596

5. Factories

During the year 87 inspections were carried out in the factories in the Area. (See Appendix C).

The following is a list of factories in the Area at the 31st December, 1956 :—

Ice Cream Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Bakers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Mineral Water Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Milk Pasteurisers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Clothing Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Dressmakers and Milliners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Printers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Ink Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Plumbers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Builders and Contractors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Joiners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Painters	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Blacksmiths	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Boot Repairers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Radio Repairers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Brick and Tile Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Watch Repairers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Glove Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Drycleaners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Electrical Engineering	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Marine Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Motor Repairers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Gas Works	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Wetherite Plant	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Building Sites	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Electric Stations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Ball Bearing Factory	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total									123

There were seven out-workers in the Area at 31st December, 1956,

IV. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) General

On the 1st January, 1956, the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, came into operation repealing the Amendment Act, 1954 and consolidating it together with the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950 and certain sections of the Slaughter-houses Act, 1954 and the Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954.

There have been a number of changes in the law as they affect enforcing authorities including the power for a court on the application of the local authority to make an order disqualifying a person convicted of an offence against the regulations from using premises as catering premises. Byelaws, Licences, etc., made under the 1938 Act are however kept in force as if they were regulations and orders made under appropriate provisions of the 1955 Act, and this applies to our Food Handling Byelaws dated 4th April, 1950.

The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, made under Section 13 and 123 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, added a number of new provisions in respect of the hygienic handling of food and the construction and maintenance of premises, stalls, vehicles, etc., where food is handled.

During the year visits were therefore made to the appropriate premises to implement these regulations.

In order to get some uniformity in the interpretation and the application of these regulations with regard to the preparation and serving of meals at the school kitchens and all school premises, a meeting was arranged attended by the County Organiser for school meals, his two assistants who cover Consett, Lanchester and Stanley areas, together with the Chief Public Health Inspectors for the three areas and myself.

This meeting was found to be of considerable value. The County Organiser agreed to raise certain matters of doubt with the Director of Education and it was agreed that detailed inspection be made of every school scullery and kitchen in the three areas. These latter inspections have now been completed and an analysis of structural defects at the various premises together with suggestions and proposals for improvements were compiled for submission to the Divisional Education Officer, School Medical Officer for the county and the County Organiser for meals service.

The new legislation was explained to the various traders and pamphlets prepared by the Central Council for Health Education were issued. A number of problems and difficulties arose and indeed in some cases are still outstanding.

To ensure adequate control over the sanitary conditions and management of slaughter-houses, the Council with Ministry approval adopted, without modification, new model byelaws prepared by the Ministry. These new byelaws came into operation on the 7th August, 1956.

(b) Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

The following were on the register at the 31st December, 1956 :—

Dairies (not dairy farms)	...	...	...	Nil
Distributors	...	...	...	131

(c) Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949

There were no licences issued during the year under review.

(d) **Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised) Regulations, 1949**

The following licences were issued during the year under review :—

Dealers' Licence to use the special designation " Pasteurised "	41
Dealers' Licence to use the special designation " Sterilised "	88
Dealers' Licence to use the special designation " Tuberculin Tested Milk (Pasteurised) "	37
Dealers' Supplementary Licence to use the special designation " Pasteurised "	2
Dealers' Supplementary Licence to use the special designation " Tuberculin Tested Milk (Pasteurised) "	1

(e) **Food and Drugs Act, 1938**

Routine inspections were carried out at all premises used for the manufacture, sale and storage of food.

The following premises were registered under the Act :—

Ice Cream Manufacture	9
Ice Cream Storage	33
Ice Cream Sale... ..	131
Preparation or manufacture of Sausages, Potted or Pressed Foods	35
Preparation of Preserved Food—Fried Fish and Chips	37

(f) **Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947**

All premises used for the manufacture and storage of Ice Cream were regularly inspected during the year and a good standard of hygiene was maintained.

Samples of Ice Cream were taken from all producers and submitted for bacteriological examination to the Public Health Laboratory.

Results were as follows :

	No. of Samples
Grade I	5
Grade II	1
Grade III	—
Grade IV	—

(g) **Meat and Other Foods**

(i) Slaughter-houses—Seven privately-owned slaughter-houses are licenced for use throughout the district and are situated in Burnopfield, Tantobie, Annfield Plain, Stanley, South Moor and Craghead. Four hundred and fourteen visits were made for the purposes of post mortem and ante mortem inspection and 100% inspection of all dressed carcasses was obtained. Details of carcasses and their organs which were condemned are given in Appendix D.

Condemned meats are stained in accordance with the Ministry's recommendations and disposal is arranged by a bye-product firm on Tyneside who specialise in this type of work.

(ii) Fatstock Guarantee Scheme. The Chief Public Health Inspector is the Certifying Officer for the grading of pigs under this scheme. However, no slaughter-houses in the District were used during the year as deadweight certification centres.

(iii) During the year the following animals were slaughtered in private slaughter-houses in the Area :—

Cattle excluding cows... ..	632
Calves	5
Sheep	1,527
Pigs	472
	<hr/>
	2,636

(iv) During the year the following articles of food were found to be unfit for human consumption and destroyed :—

187 lbs. Rolled Bacon	4 lbs. Beasts' Tongue
16 lbs. Beasts' Liver	215 lbs. Beef
205 tins Meat	107 tins Vegetables
388 tins Fruit	3 pkts. Fruit
41 tins Milk	76 tins Corned Beef
5 tins Chicken	13 tins Soup
16 tins Fish	1 tin Coffee
1 tin Cream	8 pkts. Rice
3 tins Syrup	5 tins Preserves
3 jars Paste	1 pkt. Jelly
7 pkts. Currants	2 cartons Cheese
20 tins Frozen Eggs	

(h) **Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933 and Amendment Act, 1954**

There were 48 licensed slaughtermen on the Register at the end of the year.

V. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER
DISEASES

1. There was a decrease in the number of confirmed cases during the year compared with 1955 (777 as against 921), due mainly to a reduction in the number of Measles and Dysentery.

For analysis of notified and confirmed cases of notifiable diseases see Appendix B.

Communicable Diseases in Hospitals

Each Consultant is the designated Medical Officer of his own Department so far as control of infection is concerned, and the Medical Advisory Committee acts as the Control of Infection Committee.

During the year all cases of infectious disease needing hospitalisation were admitted to Chester-le-Street Infectious Diseases Hospital.

Notifiable Diseases reported during the Year 1956

The following table gives particulars of the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis) in the Area during the year.

Disease	Total Number of Cases Notified	Total Number of Cases Confirmed	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	174	174	4	—
Whooping Cough	282	282	3	—
Diphtheria	1	—	1	—
Measles	76	76	—	—
Pneumonia	55	55	6	—
Meningococcal Infection	1	—	1	—
Dysentery	122	117	2	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	—	—
Erysipelas	11	11	—	—
Food Poisoning	62	61	—	—
Totals	785	777	17	—

Scarlet Fever. The number of cases increased from 44 in 1955 to 174 this year. This however, is no indication of the incidence of the causative organism in the community.

The infections were mild in type, only four were admitted to hospital and there were no deaths.

Whooping Cough. There were 282 cases notified during the year as compared with 182 in the previous year. Three cases were admitted to hospital.

A number of vaccines have been found to be beneficial in preventing or reducing the severity of this disease and since it is potentially dangerous, particularly to young infants, General Practitioners in the area are immunising increasing numbers of selected children.

Diphtheria. In April a female aged 26 years from Burnopfield was notified and admitted to Chester-le-Street Hospital. The final diagnosis however, proved to be Tonsillitis.

It is, however, still important to ensure that all children continue to be adequately immunised and in particular to secure immunisation of not less than 75% of babies before their first birthday. Unfortunately, the percentage of those who can be considered effectively immunised is low. At the end of 1956 only 50% of children under five years of age had received the necessary injections within the last four years and only 16% of school children could be considered to have adequate immunity. The accumulating numbers of susceptibles will therefore be exposed to considerable risk should an epidemic occur.

The total numbers (all age groups) immunised during the year were as follows :

Primary Injections	...	...	...	...	531
Boosters	...	...	...	...	283

Number of cases and deaths from Diphtheria since 1937 are as follows :—

Year	No. of Cases	No of Deaths
1937	332	13
1938	395	23
1939	196	6
1940	173	10
1941	105	3
1942	125	3
1943	113	4
1944	145	5
1945	97	6
1946	37	1
1947	11	1
1948	3	1
1949	1	—
1950	2	—
1951	1	1
1952	—	—
1953	1	—
1954	—	—
1955	2	—
1956	—	—

Measles. There were 76 cases notified as compared with 308 in the previous year.

Pneumonia. There were 55 cases of this disease notified during the year of which six were admitted to hospital.

Influenza. This was the cause of two deaths.

A number of local General Practitioners act as “ spotters ” and report to me any indication of the beginning of influenza or influenzal like illnesses in epidemic form. A scheme has been worked out with the Public Health Laboratory Service for taking blood samples from selected cases where necessary so that the causal organism can be identified and vaccine prepared when an epidemic is anticipated.

Food Poisoning. There were 62 notified cases of this disease (61 confirmed) as compared with 34 in the previous year. None were admitted to hospital.

Monthly totals were as follows :—

February	...	...	...	...	...	1
April	...	...	...	...	...	2
May	...	...	...	...	...	42
June	...	...	...	...	...	5
July	...	...	...	...	...	3
August	...	...	...	...	...	2
September	...	...	...	...	...	4
November	...	...	...	...	...	3
Total	...	...	...	...	...	62

The organisms responsible were as follows :—

B. Coli.	...	...	...	...	...	1
S. Typhi-murium...	...	...	...	...	...	15
S. Enteriditis	...	...	...	...	...	1
S. Bareilly	...	...	...	...	...	1
Coagulase Positive Staphylococcus Aureus	...	...	...	...	...	6
Cl. Welchii	...	...	...	...	...	37
Total						61

In addition to sporadic cases and odd family outbreaks throughout the year there was on 27th April, a large outbreak.

We were first informed of this outbreak on Friday afternoon, 27th April, 1956, in a telephone message, when it was reported to us that a large number of workers were reporting to the sick bay because of diarrhoea and abdominal pain. On detailed investigation it was found that 45 had been affected with abdominal pains and diarrhoea and a small percentage with nausea and vomiting. All had taken lunch at the canteen between 12 and 1 o'clock on the previous day, Thursday, 26th April, 1956. Unfortunately, no remnants of that particular meal were available for sampling and therefore our conclusions are merely presumptive. The symptoms were relatively mild, only three or four reporting to their own General Practitioners because of illness and only one of these General Practitioners notified the case as suspected food poisoning. Samples of faeces were taken from all those affected and submitted to the laboratory for examination. From 37 samples heat-resistant Cl. Welchii were isolated and these included four of the food handlers at the canteen. Incidentally, none of these food handlers had any symptoms of gastro-intestinal disturbance. One particular article of the diet was considered to have been responsible but of course this could not be proved.

All members of the staff were exceedingly helpful and co-operative and no secondary cases occurred.

Dysentery. There were 122 notified cases during the year as compared with 295 in the previous year. The worst months were October to December inclusive when a total of 87 cases were diagnosed. The disease was usually mild in nature with clinical recovery in a few days, but the difficulty experienced with odd persistent excreters, particularly among schoolchildren, could only be dealt with by impressing upon those affected the importance of personal hygiene. There is no doubt whatsoever that there is a large reservoir of infection throughout the district in the form of symptomless carriers and convalescent excreters. While early diagnosis and adequate treatment are of course necessary, control of the disease in a community depends on the clean habits of the individuals.

We have had at all times willing and ready co-operation from all General Practitioners, Staffs of schools and the Divisional Education Officer.

Poliomyelitis. There were no cases of this disease notified during the year.

In the early part of the year, the Ministry of Health announced that a vaccine was to be offered without charge to local health authorities to provide vaccinations as part of their arrangements under Section 26 of the National Health Service Act, 1946. The vaccine is a modified Salk-type for immunisation against all three types of poliomyelitis virus. After being subjected to exhaustive tests it was considered to be absolutely safe and was expected to confer a degree of protection against paralytic poliomyelitis, conclusions which have since been substantiated by the M.R.C's controlled experiment, results of which have been published in their recent report.

Parents of children born between 1947 and 1954 were asked if they wished to have their children vaccinated, but because of the very limited quantities of vaccine available during the year, only selected children were offered vaccination according to a centrally determined plan designed to maintain an even spread through the eligible age groups based on the month of birth. While 1,910 parents agreed to this procedure there was only enough vaccine to give 290 children a complete course of two injections, while 28 children received one injection. These were done during the months of May, June and December, at specially arranged sessions at the School and Infant Welfare Clinics.

Smallpox. No cases of this disease occurred in the Area during the year under review, but as usual I wish to add the reminder of the ever present possibility of its importation into the Country and the necessity of being prepared to meet this eventuality. While the value of vaccination in preventing deaths from smallpox has long been well established, the acceptance rate of primary vaccination of those under one year in the Stanley Urban District was only 23.3% (224 were vaccinated and 24 re-vaccinated during 1956).

A pamphlet regarding vaccination is sent from the County Health Department to parents when their children attain the age of three months and the Health Visiting Staff are provided with details of children vaccinated in order that they can visit those not protected.

I would again urge all mothers of infants to make arrangements with their General Medical Practitioner to have this done.

2. TUBERCULOSIS

In my 1954 Annual Report I expressed my delight on being able to report only five deaths from Tuberculosis during that particular year—the lowest number ever recorded in the district. This year Tuberculosis caused only three deaths—all males in the older age groups—an achievement which seems too good to be true, particularly when we remember that only 10 years ago the same disease killed 34 of the Stanley citizens.

Facilities for early diagnosis and treatment, and the discovery and use of new drugs which have revolutionised treatment, have all played a very important part. But in praising these services we must not forget those factors which in my opinion have played an equally decisive part, viz., the tremendous improvement in housing, living and working conditions, full employment and better wages, and the increased knowledge in health matters of the population at large which has in its turn promoted co-operation and active attempts to prevent spread of infection.

Until a few years ago, while the steady decrease in the mortality rate was being maintained, the notification rate remained at a high level, indicating that from reservoirs of infection—the known and the unknown infectious cases of Tuberculosis—the disease was still being spread widely, but over the last two years the number of new cases discovered has also declined and during 1956 only 39 cases were notified.

One can only sincerely hope that this trend in mortality and morbidity in this essentially **preventable** disease is maintained and, at the same time, every citizen will co-operate in this final round to eradicate the widespread ravages of Tuberculosis.

We must therefore keep foremost in our minds the following facts :—

- (1) that a person has to be infected by the tubercle bacillus before the disease can develop ;
- (2) that sputum, saliva and milk (not heat-treated nor from Tuberculin Tested Herds) are the vehicles by which the infection is mainly transmitted ;
- (3) that certain age groups are more likely to develop the disease should they be infected ; and
- (4) that continuous and frequent exposure to germs over a period, particularly during the phase of debility, may break down even a strong natural or acquired resistance.

Emphasis in the future must be on

- (a) regular X-rays of the chest, with a concentration on those coming into close contact with large numbers of the community and particularly susceptible groups, e.g., school teachers, hairdressers, bus conductors, the old man in the lodging house, etc. ;
- (b) routine tuberculin testing of school entrants as indices of reservoirs of infection ;
- (c) B.C.G. vaccination of **all** eligible school-leavers ;
- (d) absolute co-operation from all diagnosed cases to ensure that the best and quickest results from treatment are obtained, and that none of those around them are subjected to the possibility of infection.

The Mass Radiography Unit visited Stanley from the 25th June to the 6th July, 1956.

The following are the details of this visit :

	Males	Females	Total
No. of Miniature films	1,427	1,161	2,588
Abnormalities revealed :			
Pneumoconiosis	54	—	54
Carcinoma of lung	1	1	2
Tuberculous conditions :			
Healed—no further action	6	3	9
Occasional supervision required	—	—	—
Immediate treatment needed	2	1	3
Cases Notified—from M.R. examination	1	1	2
Cases known prior to M.R. examination	1	—	1

When the Unit is in the District, all school leavers at the Senior Schools are invited to attend the sessions, the County Education Committee having agreed to allow time off during school hours for this purpose.

1. Statistics

			Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total
(a) No. of new cases notified during the year :—					
Males ... ..	...	...	15	3	18
Females... ..	...	...	16	5	21
		Totals	31	8	39
			==	==	==
(b) No. of deaths registered :—					
Males ... ..	...	...	3	—	3
Females... ..	...	...	—	—	—
		Totals	3	—	3
			==	==	==
(c) No. of cases on the Tuberculosis Register :—					
Males ... ..	...	...	216	43	259
Females... ..	...	...	214	44	258
		Totals	430	87	517
			==	==	==

Age distribution of new cases and deaths are as follows :—

Age Period	C A S E S				D E A T H S				
	Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary		
	Years	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—4 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11—15 ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16—20 ...	3	6	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
21—25 ...	1	6	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
26—30 ...	3	—	—	1*	—	—	—	—	—
31—35 ...	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
36—40 ...	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
41—45 ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
46—50 ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
51—55 ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
56—60 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
61—65 ...	3	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
66—70 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
71—75 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
76—80 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	15	16	3	5	3	—	—	—	
	31		8		3	—		—	
	39				3				

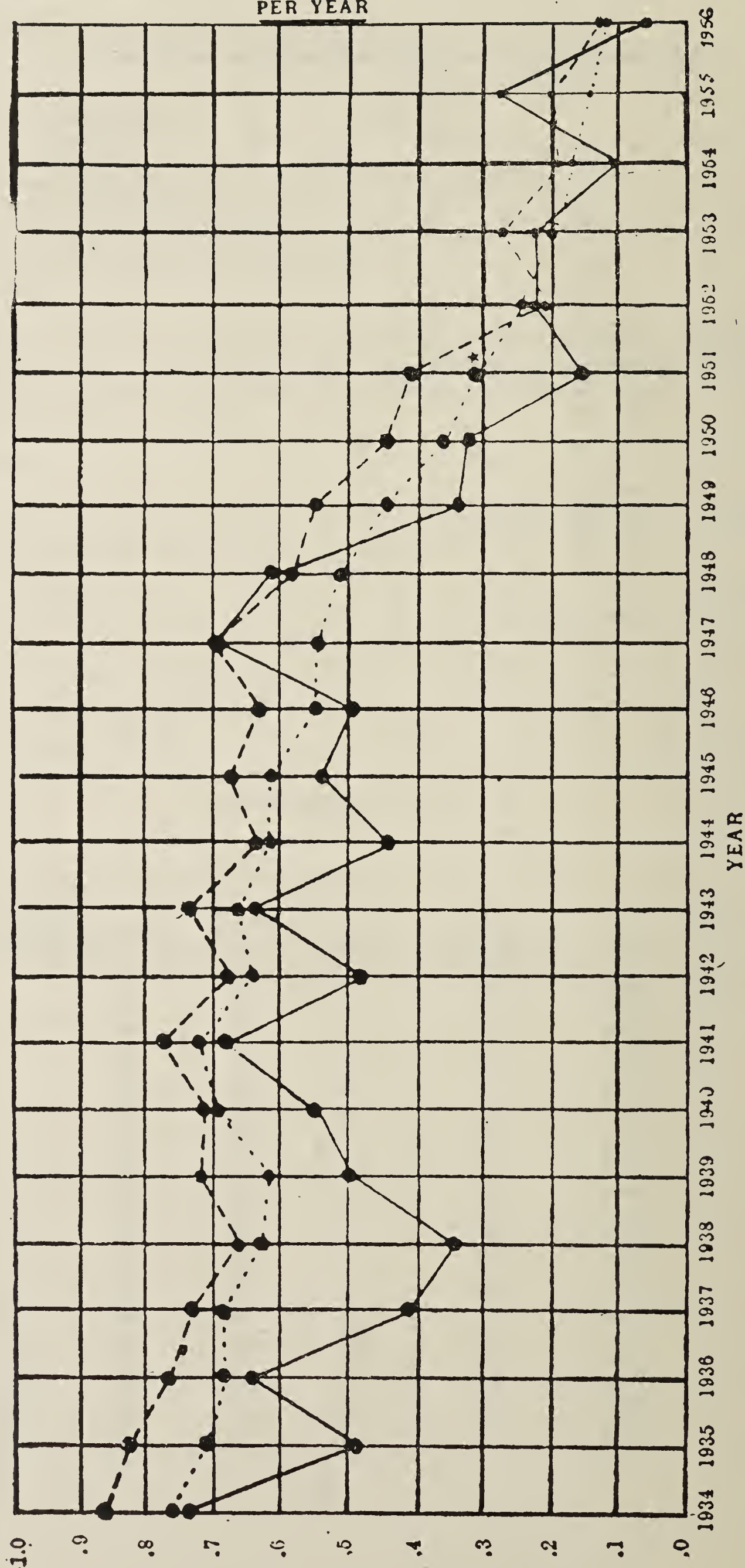
* Tuberculous Meningitis.

Year	No. of Notifications	Rate per 1,000 pop.	No. of Deaths	Rate per 1,000 pop.	No. of Sanatoria Admissions
1934	64	1.3	34	.75	—
1935	67	1.4	22	.49	—
1936	57	1.2	24	.66	—
1937	52	1.0	21	.41	—
1938	85	1.6	18	.35	—
1939	74	1.5	25	.50	—
1940	70	1.5	27	.56	—
1941	66	1.4	32	.69	—
1942	52	1.1	22	.48	—
1943	73	1.6	30	.66	—
1944	53	1.1	21	.46	—
1945	45	0.9	26	.56	—
1946	67	1.2	24	.50	28
1947	83	1.7	34	.70	29
1948	91	1.8	30	.61	31
1949	73	1.5	17	.35	37
1950	64	1.3	16	.33	29
1951	96	2.0	8	.16	68
1952	63	1.3	11	.23	64
1953	58	1.2	11	.23	40
1954	67	1.4	5	.10	68
1955	38	0.8	13	.27	56
1956	39	0.8	3	.06	49

NUMBER OF DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS PER 1,000 POPULATION PER YEAR

STANLEY U.D. ———
 DURHAM COUNTY - - - - -
 ENGLAND & WALES

COMPARATIVE TUBERCULOSIS MORTALITY RATES 1934 - 1956



B.C.G VACCINATION OF ELIGIBLE SCHOOL LEAVERS IN THE STANLEY URBAN DISTRICT—OCTOBER, 1956

(1) School	(2) Consents	(3) Given Skin* Tests		(4) Positive Reactors		(5) Negative Reactors given B.C.G.		(6) No. Absent at time of Readings
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Shield Row Girls' Modern ...	52	52	100.0	7	13.5	45	86.5	—
Shield Row Boys' Modern ...	58	53	93.1	10	18.9	40	75.5	3
Dipton St. Patrick's R.C. ...	15	13	86.7	3	23.0	10	77.0	—
Catchgate Modern ...	31	29	93.5	2	6.9	27	93.1	—
Stanley Grammar School ...	66	62	94.0	13	21.0	49	79.0	—
Burnopfield Modern ...	29	28	96.6	6	21.4	20	71.4	2
Bloemfontein Modern ...	42	38	90.5	8	21.1	29	76.3	1
Collierley Modern ...	25	22	88.0	3	13.6	19	86.4	—
Annfield Plain Modern Girls'	38	37	97.4	14	37.8	22	59.5	1
Annfield Plain Modern Boys'	35	33	94.3	6	18.2	25	75.8	2
Towneley Memorial ...	21	21	100.0	3	14.3	17	81.0	1
TOTAL ...	412	388	94.2	75	19.3	303	78.1	10

Notes : * Column 3 (b) gives % of acceptors given skin test.

Skin test used was intra-dermal Mantoux 10 I.T.U.-P.P.D. B.C.G. was given in doses of 0.1 ml. intra-dermally.

It will be noted that only 19.3% of those given a Tuberculin Test were found to be positive as compared with 19.6% in same age group in 1955, 23.5% in 1954, and 35.0% in 1949. In October, 1956, 78.1% were Tuberculin negative.

Tuberculosis Services for the Area

(i) At the Chest Clinic at South Moor Hospital, special sessions have been arranged for contacts of known cases of Tuberculosis, new and old cases and for artificial pneumothorax and pneumo-peritoneum refills. Eligible contacts received B.C.G. vaccination.

(ii) Those needing sanatorium treatment are in the main admitted to the Maiden Law Tuberculosis Unit ; those needing major surgical treatment being transferred to Seaham Hall, Poole or Wolsingham Sanatorium. During the year 49 cases of Tuberculosis were admitted for hospital treatment.

(iii) There were 517 patients on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year, two received special rehabilitation but none were re-trained.

(iv) After-care responsibility rests entirely with the Durham County Council. Nursing requisites are stored in Durham City.

(v) I arrange annually for the vaccination with B.C.G. of all eligible school children between their 13th and 14th birthday providing parents consent to the procedure. This year I was assisted by the School Medical Officer when 388 school-leavers at 11 schools were tuberculin-tested and 303 were given B.C.G. vaccine. (See details on page 37).

(vi) Nine Council houses have been allocated to potentially infectious Tuberculosis cases who were living in overcrowded circumstances.

A total of 172 families have been rehoused since 1946 on grounds of Tuberculosis.

APPENDIX A

Year	Popu- lation	Deaths	Death Rates	Live Births	Birth Rates	Infan- tile Deaths	Infant- Death Rates	Neo- natal Deaths	Neo- natal Death Rates	No. of Cases of Infectious Diseases Notified							Tuber- culosis		
										Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whoop- ing Cough	Diph- theria	Polio- myeli- tis	Bowel			Pul	Non- Pu
															Dysent.	Enteric	Food P.		
1937...	50,830	597	12.99	756	16.45	49	64.81	—	—	—	151	—	332	—	—	3	—	28	24
1938...	50,490	591	11.70	801	15.86	48	60.00	—	—	—	164	—	395	—	—	2	—	40	45
1939...	50,020	594	11.94	718	14.35	53	74.00	—	—	8	77	3	196	—	2	2	—	38	36
1940...	47,700	600	12.58	847	17.76	51	60.00	—	—	1,093	103	84	173	—	8	1	—	44	26
1941...	46,000	566	12.30	811	17.63	70	87.00	—	—	262	120	73	105	—	4	—	—	43	23
1942...	45,330	546	12.04	812	17.91	43	54.00	—	—	547	164	8	125	—	10	1	—	31	21
1943...	44,950	571	12.70	844	18.77	54	65.00	—	—	637	196	229	113	—	—	1	—	44	29
1944...	45,660	543	11.89	950	20.80	54	57.00	—	—	712	88	15	145	—	10	2	—	39	14
1945...	46,440	574	12.36	862	18.50	47	54.30	—	—	241	80	241	194	—	11	2	—	33	12
1946...	48,110	573	11.90	975	20.27	48	49.00	22	22.56	619	50	619	101	1	—	18	9	56	11
1947...	48,510	631	13.00	1108	22.84	54	48.73	23	20.75	268	71	268	61	28	6	3	1	61	22
1948...	48,920	609	12.45	926	18.93	44	47.51	19	20.51	788	181	788	40	6	4	2	1	77	14
1949...	48,890	555	11.35	880	18.00	30	34.10	15	17.04	656	240	115	31	2	33	3	9	57	16
1950...	48,480	561	11.57	769	15.86	26	33.80	12	15.60	379	107	391	23	3	391	—	20	53	11
1951...	48,110	559	11.62	788	16.37	31	39.34	14	17.76	802	104	214	17	—	111	2	16	82	14
1952...	48,080	566	11.77	819	17.03	33	40.29	24	29.30	849	141	179	10	10	22	—	13	49	14
1953...	48,060	505	10.51	791	16.46	27	34.13	15	18.96	205	61	297	3	—	321	2	64	52	6
1954...	48,020	544	11.57	728	15.16	19	26.10	12	16.48	435	47	126	1	2	41	—	17	58	9
1955...	47,900	557	11.63	683	14.26	13	19.03	10	14.64	308	44	182	2	—	295	—	34	33	5
1956...	47,860	577	12.05	773	16.15	21	27.10	15	19.40	76	174	282	1	—	122	—	62	31	8

APPENDIX B

ANALYSIS OF THE NOTIFIED AND CONFIRMED CASES OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES UNDER AGE GROUPS FOR 1956

Name of Disease	Under 1 year		1		2		3		4		5		6-10		11-15		16-20		21-35		36-45		46-65		66 and Over		Age Un-known		TOTALS	
	N	C	N	C	N	C	N	C	N	C	N	C	N	C	N	C	N	C	N	C	N	C	N	C	N	C	N	C	N	C
Scarlet Fever ...	1	1	1	1	8	8	12	12	13	13	13	13	87	87	28	28	3	3	2	2	6	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	174	174
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	
Pneumonia ...	6	6	3	3	—	—	1	1	2	2	4	4	3	3	—	—	—	—	6	6	7	7	16	16	7	7	—	55	55	
Measles ...	8	8	14	14	8	8	9	9	6	6	6	6	21	21	1	1	1	1	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	76	76		
Whooping Cough ...	38	38	24	24	46	46	57	57	40	40	44	44	33	33	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	282	282		
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—		
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	1	1	6	6	2	2	—	11	11	
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Food Poisoning ...	2	2	—	—	2	2	—	—	3	3	—	—	2	2	2	2	5	5	20	20	12	11	8	8	—	6	6	62	61	
Dysentery ...	4	4	10	10	12	12	5	5	5	5	9	9	19	18	9	8	5	5	20	19	8	8	13	11	3	3	—	122	117	
Paratyphoid ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Totals ...	59	59	52	52	77	76	84	84	69	69	76	76	165	164	40	39	16	16	52	50	34	33	43	41	12	12	6	6	785	777

N—Notified Cases.

C--Corrected Cases.

APPENDIX C

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provision as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspec- tions	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	23	24	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	94	61	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises) ...	6	2	—	—
Totals	123	87	—	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	1	—	—	1	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	—	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	2	—	—	2	—

APPENDIX D

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known) ...	632	—	5	1,527	472	—
Number inspected	632	—	5	1,527	472	—
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	2	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned...	234	—	—	1	4	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticerci ...	37.0	—	—	0.06	0.8	—
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY :						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned...	18	—	—	—	10	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	2.9	—	—	—	2.1	—
CYSTICERCOSIS						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned...	1	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally con- demned	1	—	—	—	—	—

APPENDIX E

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS

							Totals	Totals
No. of Properties inspected—notification	...	...	...	...	...	...	162	
—survey	...	...	...	...	...	...	29	
—otherwise	...	...	...	...	...	...	81	
							——	272
No. of Inspections carried out including reinspection	...							983
No. of Properties inspected and found to be infested with :								
Rats Major	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	
Minor	...	...	...	...	...	...	30	
Mice Major	...	...	...	...	...	...	17	
Minor	...	...	...	...	...	...	66	
							—	120
No. of infested properties treated by the Local Authority :								
L.A. Properties	...	...	...	...	...	...	23	
Dwelling Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	59	
Others including business premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	36	
Agricultural	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
							—	120
Total number of treatments carried out	...	...	...	...	...	...		120
No. of Preliminary Notices served—Treatment	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	
—Structural	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
							—	4
No. of Third Party Premises treated	...	...	...	...	...	...		52
Total cost charged to Third Party Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...		£46 12s. 5d.

APPENDIX F

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Tons per Square Mile per Month (Total Deposit)						
Month				New Kyo Hostel	Clavering Place	Langley Moor
January	...	...	...	19.21	Broken	18.26
February	...	...	...	35.41	do.	27.75
March	...	...	...	22.68	27.35	19.56
April	...	...	...	25.48	18.59	13.12
May	...	...	...	16.37	19.57	13.96
June	...	...	...	22.01	58.36	17.01
July	...	...	...	22.55	21.28	67.36
August	...	...	...	25.64	21.44	30.97
September	...	...	...	28.30	27.52	17.05
October	...	...	...	17.77	12.92	11.88
November	...	...	...	—	8.22	11.54
December	...	...	...	27.11	6.98	23.62
Average				23.87	18.52	22.67

